

CATHERINE ANSART.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 780.]

MAY 25, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. VERREE, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Catherine Ansart, widow of Colonel Ansart, having had the same under consideration, report:

That the following facts are established by the most incontestible record and parol proof:

1. That in 1776 Lewis Ansart de Maresquille, a captain in the French army, entered into the service of the revolution, in the State of Massachusetts, as superintendent of the casting of cannon for the State, under a stipulation that he should receive \$1,000 per annum during the continuance of the war, and a pension of \$666 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ the remainder of his life.

2. That he was uniformly styled, as appears from the minutes of the council of Massachusetts, and various other public records, as colonel of artillery and inspector general of the foundry in said State.

3. That he was ordered by said council, at various times, to perform military duties not connected with the foundry, and the payments made to him for these services have been acknowledged and paid by the United States as part of the military claim of Massachusetts; that he continued in the service to the close of the war; was married on the 9th of September, 1781, to Catherine Wimple, and died in 1804, leaving her his widow.

4. That in the year 1839 the claimant, his widow, (whose name had been changed by the legislature of Massachusetts to Ansart,) made application to the Pension office for the benefit of the provisions of the act of 4th July, 1836; but her claim was rejected on the ground "that her husband having made a contract" to serve, was, in consequence thereof, not a military officer, and therefore not embraced within its provisions.

The act of 7th June, 1832, upon which the act of 4th July, 1836, so far as service is concerned, is based on the following words: "That each of the surviving officers, &c., &c., who shall have served in the

continental line, State troops, volunteers, militia, &c., &c., shall be entitled to receive his full pay in the said line according to his rank."

If the service of Colonel Ansart had been confined exclusively to the manufacturing of cannon, there might be some just ground for objecting to the claim; but this difficulty is removed by the fact that when Count D'Estaing arrived in this country with the French fleet he was in want of a suitable engineer to direct the erection of his works of defence. And on the 31st August, 1778, Colonel Ansart was directed by the council of the State to perform this duty, and received the staff appointment of colonel, without command in the line; and he continued with Count D'Estaing until he left the country.

It is also in proof, by *additional evidence recently obtained* from Massachusetts, that Colonel Ansart was also directed by the "*Provincial Congress*," as colonel of artillery and inspector general, to assist Count D'Estaing as an engineer.

The records show, also, that William Burbeck and Richard Gridley, both of whom performed corresponding duty, and who were employed under a contract with the State of Massachusetts, were allowed pensions; indeed, it is a well known fact that *the whole artificer corps* were originally employed by contract, but they are admitted to the pension roll.

Your committee are of opinion that the widow is entitled to the benefits of the act of 4th July, 1836, (she having been married prior to the end of his service,) and therefore report a bill for her relief, with the recommendation that it do pass.